
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Dave Gordon

Phone: (907) 747-6688
Fax: (907) 747-6693

Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Date: April 1, 2013
Time: 3:00 p.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #9

The total harvest to date is approximately 5,600 tons leaving just under 6,000 tons remaining to be harvested of the season's 11,549-ton guideline harvest level. On March 30, the third opening occurred in the waters north and west of Crow Island, south of the Siginaka Islands and Kresta Point and in lower Hayward Strait. The fishery occurred from 4:10 p.m. and was closed on short notice at 5:25 p.m. due to poor quality herring in the area. Only 175 tons were harvested during this opening. The opening was based on three test samples taken from the area ranging from 12.0-12.9% mature roe and 133-210 gram average weight. The vessel survey showed a moderate volume of herring in the area. A 9.0% sample from Promisla Bay prompted the department to not include Promisla and Eastern Bays in the fishery. The herring that were tested swam out of the fishery area during the 2-hour notice period prior to the opening and were unavailable to harvest.

On March 31 vessel surveys and test sampling failed to identify a sufficient volume of good quality herring to hold a fishery. This is due to the onset of major spawning that began on March 28 and rapidly expanded to include 26 nm of shoreline by March 31. Today, April 1, there was 20.5 nm of active spawning mapped and the total shoreline receiving spawn, to date, is 41.2 nm.

Today, vessels continue to survey the area looking for a biomass of pre-spawning herring.

Updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below, and on a recorded message phone at (907) 747-1009.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADFG	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220
Herring Hotline	225-6870	772-3700		747-1009	465-8905			